(c) In most of the Group 'A' cadres, review has been carried out and finalised. Cadre reviews in a few Non-Gazetted cadres have also been finalised recently. In order to expedite cadre reviews in other cases, it has now been decided to delink the 10 per cent economy cut in posts from the cadre review. Cadre authorities have been advised to process the review proposals independent of the 10 per cent cut and submit recommendations in this regard.

Import of pistols and revolvers

6970. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the makes of various pistols, revolvers and rfles which were imported from other countries during the last three years;

(b) what is their total value and the names of countries from which these were imported; and

(c) what is the portion of their indigenous production and what are the impediments in their indigenous production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) In the last three years there has been no import of revolvers and pistols. Some very limited quantities of a certain highly specialised category of sniper rifles, were imported from Russia. This being a limited, one time, requirement, indigenisation was not considered cost effective.

Temporary capping of Agni missile plan

6971. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH;
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agni missile plan is being temporarily capped;

(b) if so, what are the reasons and compulsions therefor;

(c) how many times missiles has been successfully test launched;

(d) how many more tests are needed before it can be considered for deployment; and

(e) to what extent this capping will adversely affect the missile development programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Agni is not a missile system but only a technology demonstration vehicle to establish manoeuvrable trajectory, re-entry and guidance technologies. With the third successful flight test carried out on 19 Feb., 94. Agni project has been successfully completed.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) AGNI — vehicle has been launched three times. First and third launches successfully met the mission requirements, whereas second launch was only partially successful.

(d) Technology demonstrator project Agni did not envisage development of missile for deployment as a weapon system.

(e) Does not arise, as there has been no capping.

Live bombs detected at Tughlakabad and Pali

6972. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 285 live bomb and 90 live bombs were detected from the containers received from abroad at the dry port at Tughlakabad and from the Army bunkers in Pali, respectively;

(b) if so, what are the facts in respect of each of the aforesaid incidents;

(c) whether the incidents resulted in any loss of life and if so, what are the details;

(d) whether any inquiry into the incidents has since been completed;

(e) if so, what is the outcome of the inquiry; and

(f) what remedial steps are being taken to obviate the chances of such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (f) In a consignment of heavy melting scrap imported by two private firms from UAE, 283 old and rusted artillery shells were detected in December, 1993 by the Customs Department at the Inland Container Depot at Tughlakabad. These shells were inspected by the Bomb Disposal Squad of the National Security Guards. The shells were found to be blind i.e. fired but not exploded, and containing explosive materials. There are no Army bunkers in Pali.

Army's help was sought to demolish this explosive material. During demolition operation on 8-4-94, 3 Army personnel were injured one of whom subsequently succumbed to his injuries. A Staff Court of Inquiry has been ordered to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Ministry of Finance has informed the Ministry of External Affairs to bring the above incident to the notice of the Ambassador of UAE in India, so that the UAE Government is made aware of the serious security implications of exporting such consignments which can cause damage to property and human life in the importing countries. The Customs authorities are also examining all such consignments of imported waste and scrap material very carefully.

Contract for overhauling of Mirage-2000

6973. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have signed any contract with any foreign company for setting up facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for the overhaul of Mirage-2000;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) by when these facilities are likely to become available and at what cost?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) to (c) Government have entered into a contract M/s. Dassault Aviation, France for supply of equipment, tools, documents, spares, etc. for setting up facilities at Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for major inspection (overhaul) and servicing of Marage-2000 ariframe and accessories. The setting up of the facilities is planned to be completed by the time the aircraft become due for overhaul.

Financial assistance for testing of Agni

6974. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence Research and Development Organisation had sought Rs. 50 crores to conduct three more test launches of the indigenously-developed intermediates range missile, AGNI;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government have not responded to the DRDO request; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. Defence Research and Development Organisation had not sought funds to conduct more test launches of technology demonstrator vehicle AGNI as this technology demonstrator project has been completed.

(b) Does not arise.

)c3 Does not arise.